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What I find most interesting is not the disclosed earmarks, but rather those that are undisclosed. Typically the total earmarks in an appropriations bill can be more than double with the inclusion of undisclosed earmarks. The House version of the Defense appropriations bill contained \$3 billion in earmarks, but adding in undisclosed projects in the senate raised the total to the \$6.5 billion neighborhood.

Admitting you have problem is always the first step. Until Congress and the appropriators agree to disclose each and every earmark for public review and debate, we cannot begin to have meaningful earmark reform.